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DESCRIPTION

OF

WOODBRIDGE CHURCH,

In the County of SUFFOLK.

THIS Church is ſaid to have been built by John Lord Segrave, and his wife Margaret de Brotherton, in the reign of Edward III. and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Over the door of the ſteeple, on the right hand, are the arms of de Brotherton; and on the left thoſe of de Brotherton and Segrave impaled. In the middle above is a cypher of I. H. S. crowned.

The Church is a ſpacious, tall, and well-built fabrick; conſiſting of a nave and two ailes; the roofs covered with lead, and ſupported by ten beautiful ſlender pillars and four demy ones of the Gothic order. The walls of black flint ſtrengthened with buttreſſes. Adjoining to the chancel, on the north ſide, is a private Chapel, erected, in the reign of Elizabeth, by Thomas Seckford *, Eſquire, Maſter of Requeſts; the eaſt window whereof is adorned with a fluted Doric pilaſter. On the ſouth ſide, is a handſome convenient veſtry. The north portico is of the like materials, and covered with lead; adorned on the front with the repreſentation of St. Michael the Archangel encountering the Dragon, done in relievo. In the church were altars of St. Anne, Sancti Salvatoris, and the chapel of St. Nicholas in the north aile. In the church-yard, or in the walls of the church, was a famous image of our Lady.

The tower is a very large and noble piece of architecture, built of the ſame ſpecies of ſtone with the church, and of a quadrangular form, having, for its greater ſtrength as well as ornament, four buttreſſes ſtanding at the four angles; towards the top the flint and ſtone are beautifully intermixed in various devices. On the four corners are four finials, on each of

* In Mr. Seckford's Ordinances reſpecting his alms-houſe in Woodbridge, it is thus expreſſed concerning the placing the deeds and evidences of the ſame: "*The cheſt to be placed and ſett in the chappel adjoyning to the pariſh church of "Woodbridge aforeſaid, by me lately erected and builded.*"

which

BRITISH MUSEUM

which is a weather-cock; in the middle between the finials, on the battlements, are the badges of the four Evangeliſts. This ſteeple and the north portico were built in the middle of the 15th century, as appears by the following *legacies* *, given by various perſons at different times. A mutilated inſcription remains upon a ſtone, inſerted in the wall of the north ſide of

* Extracts of divers old Wills reſpecting Woodbridge Steeple and Porch, as made by the late Mr. Commiſſary Tanner.

To the Steeple.

Teſtamento.

Willi Fader, 1444, lego ad fabricationem campanilis cum fuerit inceptum, (23d Hen. VI.) 3s. 4d.

T. Johnis Newport, 20 Maii, 1444, ad fabricationem campanilis faciend' et (28 Hen. VI.) ſtand' in cimet' dictæ eccleſiæ, 6l. 13s. 4d.

T. Johnis Albrede *, 24 Apr. 1448, ad fabric' et fundat' unius campanilis ejuſ- (27 Hen. VI.) dem de novo faciend', xx marc.

T. Johnis Spicer, 20 Jan. 1453, ad reparationem unius campanilis ejuſdem (32 Hen. VI.) eccleſiæ de novo faciend' ſeptem libras.

T. Galfridi Kemp, 3 Feb. 1450, ad reparat' unius campanilis ibm de novo (29 Hen. VI.) faciend', VII lb.

T. Willi' Berard, 4 Kal. Feb. 1451, item lego novo campanili de Wodebrigg, (30 Hen. VI.) 3s. 4d.

T. Walteri Doft, 24 Feb. 1448, ad reparat' unius campanilis ejuſdem eccleſiæ, (27 Hen. VI.) XLs.

T. Robti Parterich, 12 Maii, 1459, item lego campanili, xiiis. ivd. (31 Hen. VI.)

T. Johnis Kemp, 20 Julii, 1458, item lego ad reparationem campanilis ibm, (37 Hen. VI.) xiiii lb.

T. Robti Barfoot, 5 Apr. 1460, item lego fabricæ campanilis eccleſiæ paroch' (39 Hen. VI.) de Wodebryg, XLs.

To the Porch.

T. Richardi Godyng, 1455, item lego ad fabricam pro aula aut portici (34 Hen. VI.) boreali, XLs.

T. Willi' Reeve, (carpenter) 10 Feb. 1458, item lego fabricæ novæ pro aula (37 Hen. VI.) dictæ eccleſiæ, iiis. ivd.

T. Robti Baudre, 1457, item lego ad reparat' unius porticus ad oſtium boreale (36 Hen. VI.) dictæ eccleſiæ de novo fiend'.

T. Robti Parterich, 12 Maii, 1459, item lego ad fabric' novi portici, xiiis. ivd. (38 Hen. VI.)

T. Johnis Kemp, 20 Julii, 1458, item ad reparat' unius porticus ad oſtium (37 Hen. VI.) boreale dictæ eccleſiæ de novo fiend' lxvis. viiid.

T. Iſabellæ Bawdyr, 20 Feb. 1459, lego ad facturam novi porticus, xxs. (38 Hen. VI.)

* It appears, that the work of the new ſteeple was begun in or about 1451 (in the 30th year of Hen. VI.) as *Berard*, in his legacy, calls it "*the new ſteeple*;" which ſeems to indicate that it was then actually *in building*; whereas the words in *Albrede's* bequeſt, in 1448, are "to the building and founding of a ſteeple;" which ſhews that the foundation was not then laid.

the

the tower about the height of 24 feet, upon which the name of *Albrede* may be eaſily diſcerned.

	Feet.	Inches.
Length of the church —	69	5
Breadth — — —	47	0
Length of the chancel —	31	5
Breadth — —	17	10
Height of both about ——	49	0
Height of the ſteeple ——	108	0

There are within the ſteeple a clock and chimes. On the bells the following inſcriptions (taken in 1712).

I. John Darbie made me 1669.
II. Miles Grey made me 1638.
III. Miles Grey made me 1638.
IV. Miles Grey made me 1676.
V. John Darbie made me 1679.
VI. John Darbie made me 1677.
VII. and VIII. bells added many years after.

The advowſon of this Church, amongſt other the poſſeſſions of the priory, was at the diſſolution granted firſt, 20 Hen. VIII. to Sir Anthony Wyngfelde, Knt. for 21 years; afterwards, 33 Henry VIII. to John Wyngfelde, Eſq; and Dorothy his wife, in ſpecial tail male. On the death of John Wyngfeld, without ſuch iſſue, it was, by patent, dated 15 May, 1564, 6 Elizabeth, granted to Thomas Sekford, Maſter of Requeſts, in fee. In that family it continued until 1673, when it paſſed, by the will of Mrs. Dorothy Seckford, into the family of the Norths, of Laxfield, a younger branch of the noble family of that name. From the Norths it paſſed alſo by will, in 1707, to the family of Carthew.

Thomas Youngs, after the diſſolution of Woodbridge Priory, was inſtituted vicar of this church the 26th of June, 1555, upon the collation of the biſhop by lapſe; but it being ſoon found that it was no vicarage, the ſame year he was called *Capellanus Parochialis*.

John Godfrey, Curate, 1596.

Joſias Hunt, 1605.

Thomas Crompton, 1618.

Robert Cade, 1626 (died of the plague in 1666, as did his wife and child of the ſame diſtemper; and upwards of 300 of the inhabitants).

Edmund

Edmund Brome, 1666.

John Blyth, 1719.

John Clarke, 1736.

Thomas Carthew, F. S. A. 1779; Patron and Perpetual Curate of this Church.

18 JA 53